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*SSCI / CA*

OCA 88-2243

1 July 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing SSCI Staffers on Terrorism [ ]

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1. On 1 July the following SSCI staffers were briefed in SH219:

Jim Dykstra, Jim Currie, Dave Holliday, John Elliff, Charles Battaglia, Chris Straub, Gina Gentor, Larry Kettlewell, Char King, Blyth Thomas, Bob Morgan, John Nelson, Ed Levine, Meryl Kelly, John DesPres, George Tenet, Paul Joyal.

The Staffers were briefed by:

Andre LeGallo, NIO/CT, [ ], NESA, [ ] CTC, [ ] NESA, Annamaria Adamo, INR, [ ] DIA, [ ] DIA, Jerry Sutton, INR.

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In addition to the briefers, the following persons were in the room:

Steve Pomerantz, FBI, Jerry Sutton, State, Steve Hooks, FBI, George Van Balen, FBI, Richard Schucker, FBI, [ ] DIA, [ ] DIA.

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[ ] OCA was present. Despite Charlie Battaglia's best efforts, a transcript was not taken. [ ]

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2. Mr. LeGallo opened with a discussion of worldwide trends in terrorism, by region. Generally, terrorist incidents have been declining over the last year. He noted that most of the Pakistan incidents are state sponsored by the Afghan service. He also noted that incidents of state sponsored terrorism in the Mid East have declined in the last year. Attacks against US persons were down markedly with 7 Americans killed and 47 wounded in 1987. [ ]

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3. Mr. LeGallo described the Kuwait Airlines hijacking as much more organized and professionally conducted than the TWA 847 incident. He also described the spate of terrorist incidents around the 15 April anniversary of the Tripoli bombing. He noted that we have no smoking gun to link Libya to the incidents. [ ]

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4. Mr. LeGallo said that the two top terrorist targets in the next few months will be the Olympics and the Haj. The key time for attacks is likely before the Games--targets in Korea are very hard--travel to and from the Games is softer targets. He said that the Iranians are also organizing third country nationals to disrupt the Haj. [REDACTED]

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5. Mr. LeGallo said that the PLO has not revenged the killing of Abu Jihad. We were concerned that some over zealous Palestinian would hit a US target despite Arafat's orders against such an attack. [REDACTED]

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6. In response to a question by Dave Holliday, Mr. LeGallo and [REDACTED] discussed the definition of terrorism used by the Community and the impact of that definition on counting terrorism incidents. [REDACTED]

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7. [REDACTED] discussed incidents of Middle East terrorism and groups. She stated that we believe Iran is the most serious terrorist threat especially when Iran is linked to Hizbolla. She said that we believe decision making on terrorism is now a collective responsibility and consensual process in Iran. [REDACTED]

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8. In response to a question by Dave Holliday, [REDACTED] said that links to Hizbolla are generally through the Red Guards but Radicals in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are also in contact and involved with the hostage issues. In response to a question from Ed Levine about intelligence strengths and weaknesses, [REDACTED]

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9. [REDACTED] that Syria has reduced its state sponsorship of terrorism. Assad was surprised to be hit directly by the court cases in London. We believe the Syrian relationship with the Abu Nidal Organization is the key test of Syrian involvement in state sponsored terrorism. [REDACTED]

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10. [REDACTED] discussed the PLO and its relationship to Abu Nidal. Arafat has told the PLO not to hit US interests because of the Abu Jihad assassination. He does not want to affect developing sympathies for the West Bank disturbances. He described the status of the Cairo Declaration--the PLO is backing off now. He believes that Arafat authorized the Declaration as a trial balloon. [REDACTED]

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11. [REDACTED] said that Abu Nidal Organization activities have declined but that was mainly due to loss of infrastructure from its shift out of Syria to Lebanon. We believe that ABU will become more active--hitting softer targets because it needs success. [REDACTED]

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12. [ ] discussed Libyan sponsored terrorism. She said that Qadhafi has been engaged in a diplomatic initiative to improve his world status. He has reduced involvement in terrorism. He has condemned terrorism and held an anti-terrorist conference in Tripoli. We have no indication that he has, in fact, reduced his support for terrorism. [ ]

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[ ] discussed the Naples bombing and other incidents near the 14 April date. We have no firm evidence concerning the relationship between the Japanese Red Army and the Libya, but we do know that JRA members met Abu Nidal Organization people in Tripoli. [ ]

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13 [ ] DIA, discussed the threat to the Olympics.

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OCA/Senate [ ] (5 July 1988)

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